

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1 1. A capacitor, comprising:
2 a fixed charge plate disposed in a semiconductor substrate;
3 a moveable charge plate disposed above the fixed charge plate; and
4 a stiffener affixed to the moveable charge plate.

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6 17. A microelectromechanical structure variable capacitor comprising:
7 a fixed charge plate disposed upon an elevated semiconductor substrate;
8 a fixed actuator plate disposed upon a lower semiconductor substrate,
9 wherein the fixed actuator plate is below the fixed charge plate;
10 a moveable charge plate suspended above the fixed charge plate; and
11 a stiffener disposed upon the moveable charge plate.
